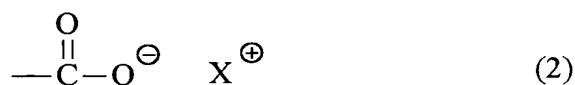
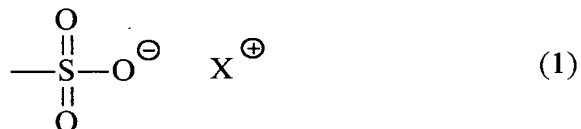


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

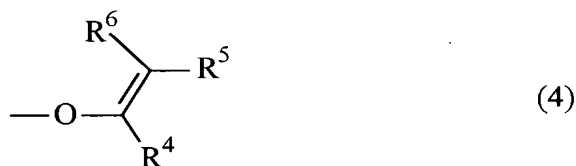
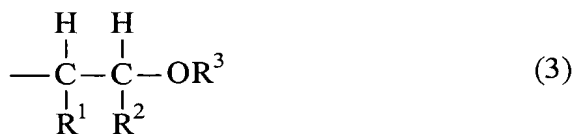
Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Withdrawn) A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having a hydrophilic surface having provided thereon an image-forming layer containing a hydrophobic infrared ray absorber having at least either a functional group represented by formula (1) or a functional group represented by formula (2):



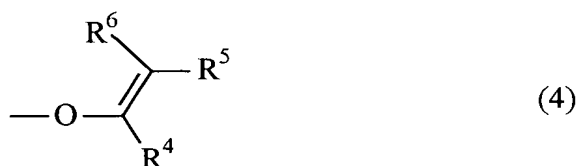
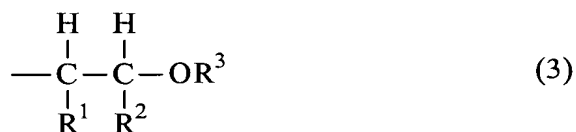
wherein X^+ represents an iodonium ion, a sulfonium ion or a diazonium ion.

3. (Withdrawn) The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image-forming layer contains a compound having at least either a functional group represented by formula (3) or a functional group represented by formula (4):



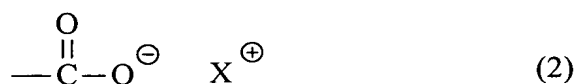
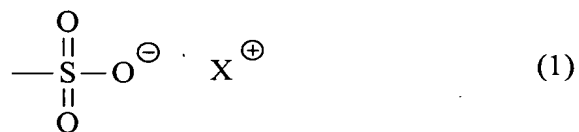
wherein R¹ and R² each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; R³ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; either R⁵ or R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; and arbitrary two of R¹, R² and R³ may form a ring, and arbitrary two of R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ may form a ring.

4. (Currently Amended) The lithographic printing plate precursor as claimed in claim [2] 5, wherein the image-forming layer contains a compound having at least either a functional group represented by formula (3) or a functional group represented by formula (4):

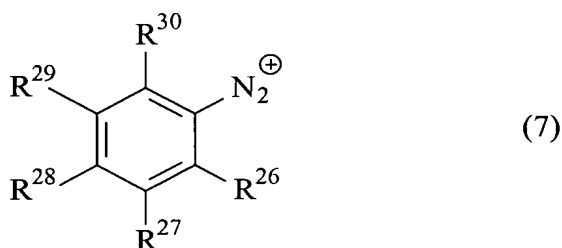


wherein R¹ and R² each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; R³ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; either R⁵ or R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group; and arbitrary two of R¹, R² and R³ may form a ring, and arbitrary two of R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ may form a ring.

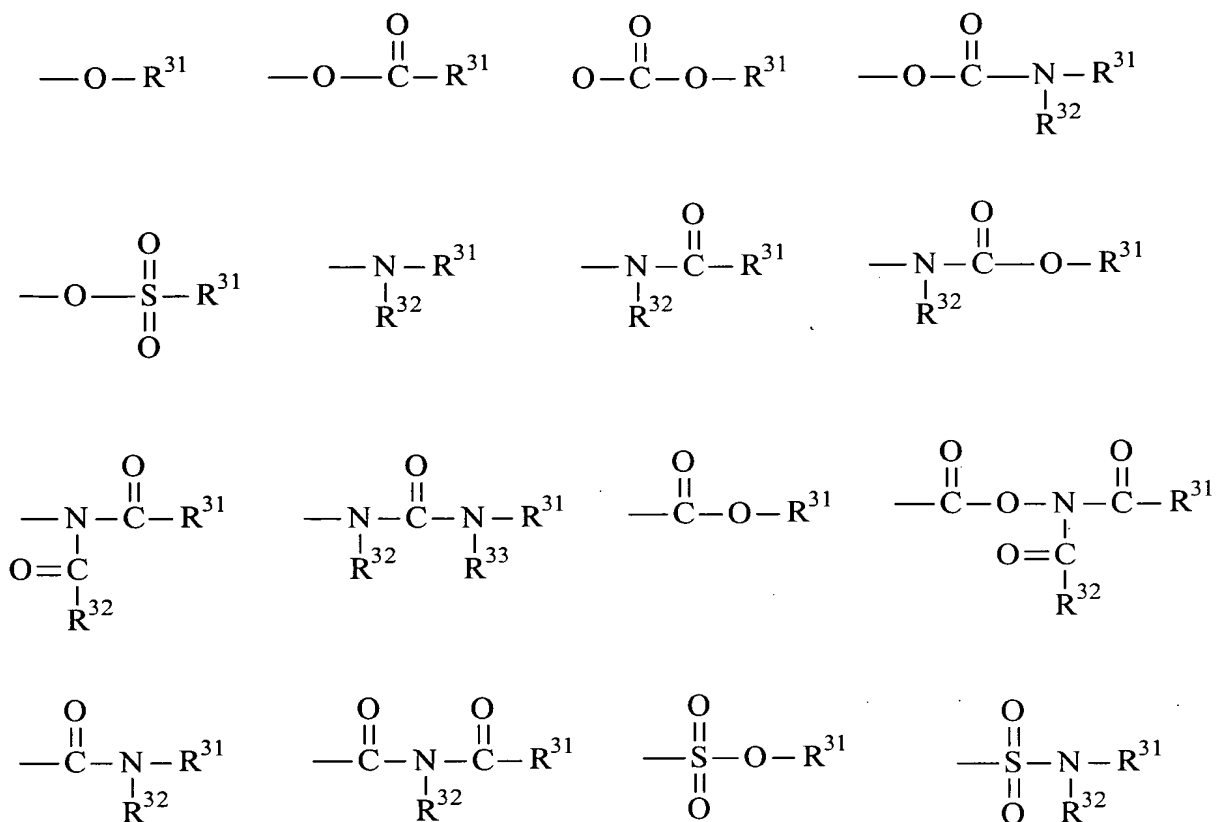
5. (New) A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having a hydrophilic surface having provided thereon an image-forming layer containing a hydrophobic high molecular compound having at least either a functional group represented by formula (1) or a functional group represented by formula (2):



wherein X^+ represents an iodonium ion, a sulfonium ion or a diazonium ion represented by formula (7):



wherein R^{26} to R^{30} each represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group, an alkenyl group, or a functional group represented by any of the following formulae:



wherein R^{31} , R^{32} and R^{33} each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkynyl group or an alkenyl group and arbitrary two of R^{26} to R^{30} may form a ring.